

Table 15: Employment by Industry in Big Horn County (Annual Average, 2010)

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	460	3,557	\$29,066
TOTAL PRIVATE	419	2,653	\$26,685
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	46	245	\$24,649
MINING	3	96	\$78,979
CONSTRUCTION	51	147	\$31,155
MANUFACTURING	13	61	\$23,224
WHOLESALE TRADE	16	144	\$23,654
RETAIL TRADE	46	400	\$20,307
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	10	15	\$24,404
INFORMATION	7	37	\$33,879
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	21	110	\$40,956
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	23	167	\$31,718
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	31	73	\$24,825
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	15	41	\$28,008
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	2	*	*
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	38	478	\$35,083
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	16	50	\$14,597
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	51	451	\$10,858
OTHER SERVICES	28	114	\$11,157
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	41	904	\$36,057
Local Government	15	371	\$29,196
State Government	11	317	\$34,080
Federal Government	15	215	\$50,794

Source: Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment of Wages (QCEW) Program.

As defined by the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), “per capita income” is the mean money income received in the past 12 months computed for every man, woman, and child in a geographic area. It is derived by dividing the total income of all people 15 years old and over in a geographic area by the total population in that area. Note -- income is not collected for people under 15 years old even though those people are included in the denominator of per capita income. This measure is rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

Money income includes amounts reported separately for wage or salary income; net self-employment income; interest, dividends, or net rental or royalty income or income from estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); public assistance or welfare payments; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and all other income.

In 2011, Big Horn County had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of \$26,805, a 35% increase from a decade prior. Big Horn County ranked 54th out of 56 counties in the state for PCPI in 2011. The county’s PCPI was 74 percent of the state average of \$36,016, and 64 percent of the national average of \$41,560. In 2001 the PCPI of Big Horn was \$17,269 and ranked lowest in the state (56th out of 56 counties).

According to the [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#), in 2011 Big Horn County had a total personal income (TPI) of \$350,962. This ranked 19th out of 56 counties in the state and accounted for 1.0 percent of the state total. In 2001, the TPI of Big Horn was \$220,744 and ranked 21st in the state.

According to the [U.S. Census “QuickFacts”](#) with American Community Survey data, Big Horn County’s median household income was \$37,277 in 2011. This was equivalent to 82% of the state’s median household income of \$45,324. The county had nearly 28% of the population living below the poverty level compared with 14.6% of the total population of Montana. The American Community Survey is a rolling average of data collected annually on a random sample basis.

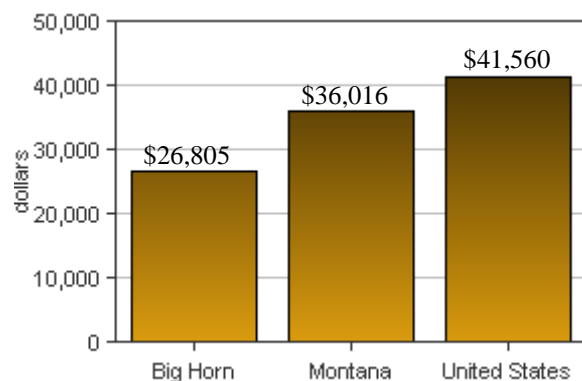


Figure 14: Per Capita Income, 2011

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, BEARFacts for Big Horn County, MT.

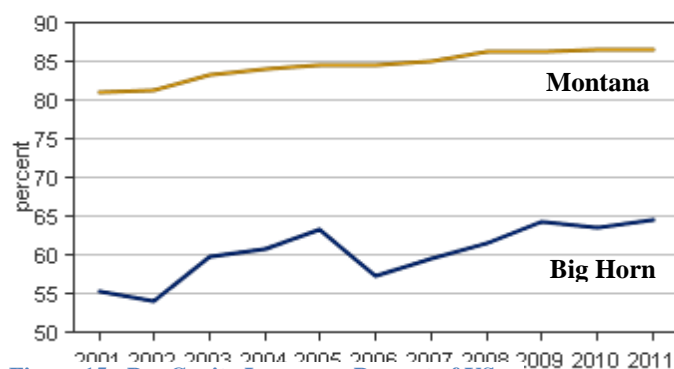


Figure 15: Per Capita Income as Percent of US

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, BEARFacts for Big Horn County, MT.

Economic Development and Planning

The county’s economic development plan is the multi-county Community Economic Development Strategy prepared by the [Beartooth Resource Conservation and Development – Economic Development District](#) (RC&D-EDD). The on-line document from the RC&D website is dated 2001. The RC&D is in the process of updating the plan.

The City of Hardin created the [Two Rivers Trade Port Authority](http://www.tworiversauthority.org/index.html) in 2004. The website for Two Rivers includes marketing information for the industrial park north of Hardin, which includes the coal-fired electrical generating facility. The website also markets the Two Rivers Regional Correctional Facility in Hardin, completed in 2007, but which has not yet been utilized.

No information on the economic development activities of the Crow and Northern Cheyenne were available on their websites.

Sources:

Beartooth RC&D <http://www.beartooth.org/>

Headwaters Economics, Big Horn County Profile. <http://headwaterseconomics.org/tools/eps-hdt>

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Montana Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research. 2008. "Expenditure Profiles and Marketing Responsiveness of Nonresident Visitor Groups to Montana." <http://www.itrr.umd.edu/research08/NonresExpendProf05.pdf>

MT Department of Labor & Industry. <http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.mt.gov/>

National Parks Traveler. <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2011/06/numbers-little-bighorn-battlefield-national-monument8258>

Two Rivers Trade Port Authority. <http://www.tworiversauthority.org/index.html>

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis <http://www.bea.gov/regional/index.htm>

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U.S. Census Bureau, Definition of per capita income: http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/meta/long_INC910210.htm

U.S. Census QuickFacts for Big Horn County; data based on American Community Survey, a rolling average of random sample data <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html>

U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. "Montana 2013 Agricultural Statistics." http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/2013/2013_Bulletin.pdf

U.S. Department of Agriculture. Census of Agriculture-2007. http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/Montana/index.asp

5.5 SERVICES

Government

Big Horn County includes two municipalities, the Crow Indian Reservation, Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation and lands managed by various state agencies (e.g., Montana Department of Transportation, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation) and a federal agency presence (e.g., National Parks, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation).

Big Horn County has a 3-member Commission with a Commissioner elected from each of the three districts. The Commissioners serve 6-year terms, with one seat up for election every two years.

Big Horn County Commissioners work with the city councils, tribal governments, and state and federal agencies to coordinate where possible. Big Horn County participates in a city-county planning board that surrounds and includes Hardin. The City of Hardin owns and operates the Hardin landfill and contracts with the county, Crow Tribe, and private industries such as the power plant (fly ash disposal) to accept solid waste. The County Commissioners participate in a number of state and federal working groups and advisory councils.

Coordinating all of the services among the county, municipalities, tribal governments, BIA, and state and federal agencies can be quite complicated. The tribal governments have their own laws and regulations, separate from the powers authorized in state law for municipalities and counties.

Fire Protection

There are ten fire agencies that are first responders to fire in Big Horn County, as shown in Table 16. Only the Big Horn County Fire District qualifies as a rural fire district (as established under state law, Title 7, Chapter 33, Part 21, Montana Code Annotated).

Although each department has a defined response area, all ten departments coordinate well to respond to fires in Big Horn County within and outside of their individual response areas. Even with this coordination, the major impediment to quick response is the enormity of the county. The response time could be up to two hours in some areas of the county.

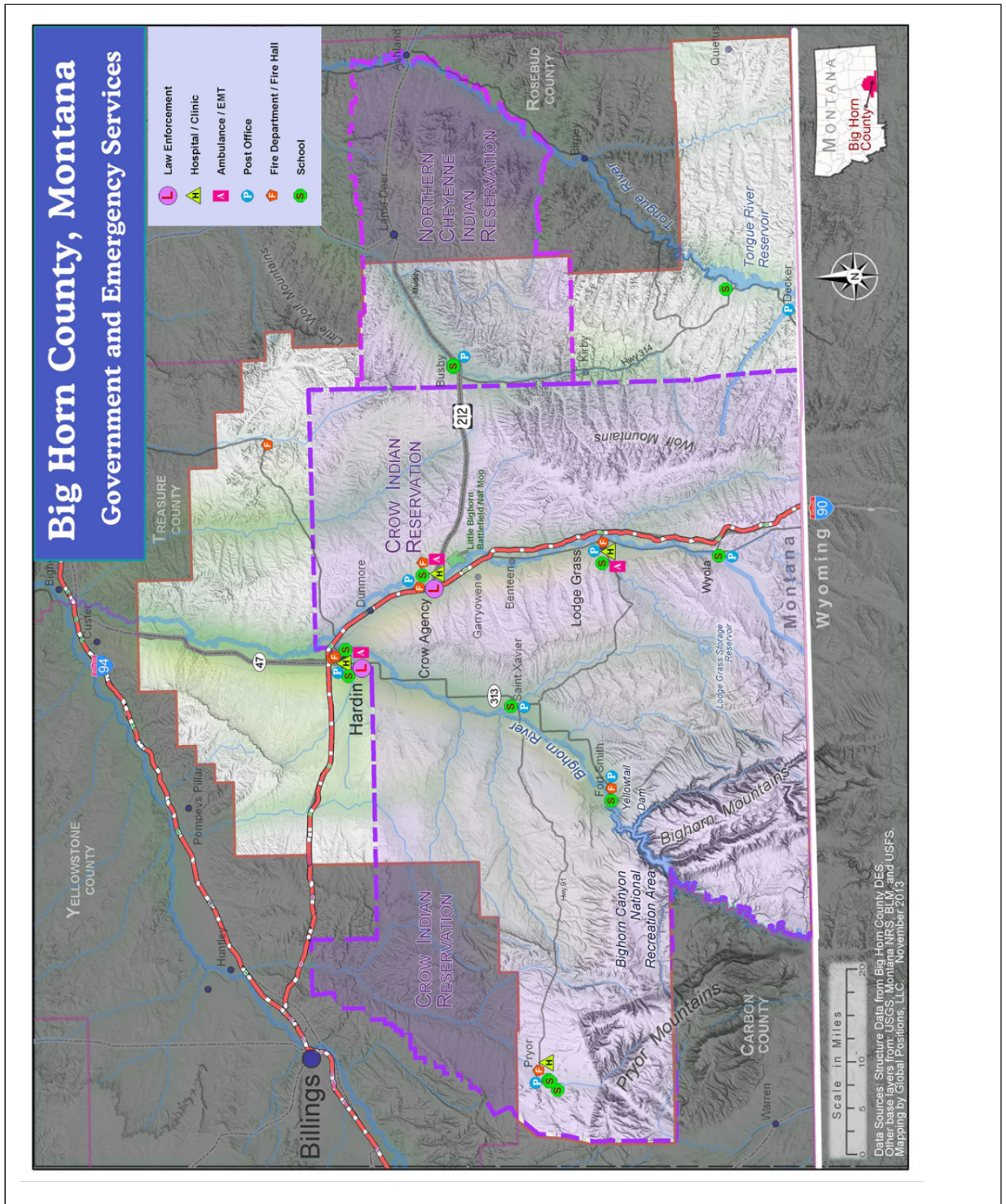


Figure 16: Big Horn County Government and Emergency Services